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DRL/MLGA FOR LYNN SICADE AND SYLVIA HAMMON, IO/RHS AMY  
OSTERMEIER AND DEEPA GHOSH

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SUBJECT: POLAND'S VIEWS ON THE UPCOMING UNGA THIRD COMMITTEE  
RESOLUTIONS

REF: STATE 145641

¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY: On October 22, PolOff met with Mariusz Lewicki, Head of the Human Rights Section in the MFA,s UN Department, to discuss reftel issues to be tabled at the UN Third Committee next month. Lewicki reaffirmed that Poland will continue to support country specific resolutions, which is the common EU position, as well as support the U.S. position on a majority of the thematic resolutions. He did indicate that Poland will support the EU's death penalty resolution, a top priority for Brussels. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (SBU) On the specific issues, Lewicki provided the following comments:

--No Action Motions: Poland agrees with the principal against no-action motions, and supports the open discussion of all human rights issues raised at the Third Committee.

--Country Specific Resolutions: Lewicki stated that the U.S. can count on Polish support and a common EU position on the proposed Burma, DPRK, Iran and Belarus resolutions discussed in reftel. In the case of Belarus, Lewicki himself raised the importance of the resolution, especially since the elimination of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Belarus.

--Rape as an instrument of state policy: According to Lewicki, there is no common EU position due to disagreements over specific language in the draft resolution. In principal, it is supported by the EU and the EU intends to adopt it. Although Poland along with Ireland and Malta have some concerns about the language related to "Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights," Lewicki assured us that they will work with the U.S. on appropriate language and Poland will not block the resolution.

--Election Resolution: Poland will continue to back the biannual resolution to support the UN Elections Program.

--Religious Intolerance: Lewicki was not familiar with the specifics of this resolution, but noted our comments and offered to get back to us with Polish reactions.

--Defamation of Religion: Poland,s position remains in agreement with the U.S. on this issue. Poland and the EU will continue to vote against the OIC text.

--EU Death Penalty Resolution: Lewicki indicated that it is the priority EU issue within the Third Committee, which calls for the abolition of the death penalty. He stated that it was not only part of the EU Acquis, but also important for the EU,s external policy.

